Losses suffered by SAIL

*23. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY :
SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the net profits earned by SAIL during 1994-95,1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the reasons for sharp decline in profit during 1996-97;

(c) whether the cost of coal constitutes the largest proportion of raw material in the production of steel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether high quantity of ash contained in the coal, purchased from Coal India Ltd. has resulted in huge losses to a SAIL ;

(f) if so, the details there of;

(g) whether some irregularities by certain high-ups have been detected; and

(h) if so, the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The net profit (before tax) earned by SAIL in 1994-95,1995-96 and 1996-97 is as follows :

Year	(Rs. in Crores)
1994-95	1163
1995-96	1319
1996-97	588

(b) Despite significant improvement in operational efficiencies, higher production and better techno-economic performance, SAIL's profits declined in 1996-97 mainly on account of abnormal increase in input costs due to escalation in coal price, petroleum price, railway freight, power tariff, special customs duty, increase in cost of borrowing etc. The impact of these escalation was about Rs.1000 Crores, while only a part of this impact could be neutralised through improvement in operational efficiencies. Other reasons, which affected the profitability include cheaper imports and additional domestic supplies from new capacities bringing the margins under stress as also the sluggish market behaviour etc. due to which SAIL could not pass on the impact of input cost escalation to the customers.

(c)to (f) Cost of Coal (excluding boiler coal) constituted about 56% of the raw material cost incurred on production of steel during 1996-97 in SAIL. High ash content in coking coal, supplied by Coal India Limited (CIL), has an adverse impact on the coke rate and the Blast Furnace (BF) productivity and, therefore, on the financial performance.

(g)and (h) No complaint alleging irregularities by high-ups, in connection with coal purchased from M/s CIL,has been received/ investigated by SAIL or the Ministry of Steel.

Delhi Rent Control Act

*24. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to amend Delhi Rent Control Act;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments likely to be made therein; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be amended ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) Details of the proposed amendments are contained in the Delhi Rent (Amendment) Bill,1997 (Bill No.XLIII) which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28.7.97. At present, the Bill is under examination of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development.

(c) In view of the pendency of the matter with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development, it is not possible to indicate any definite time-frame for finalising amending this Act.

Foreign Participation in Satellite Channel

*25. SHRI G.L. KANAUJIA:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign participation in satellite channel to 49 per cent of the total equity;

(b) whether the Government have received any request to restrict the same to 25 per cent of total equity; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Broadcasting Bill, introduced by the Government in Parliament on 16.5.1997, provides for a maximum foreign equity participation upto 49% in a satellite broadcasting service. The Bill was referred to a Joint Select Committee